SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

US Venture Smashed

THE situation in Indochina has become very tense. Following its military ventures in Cambodia, South Viet Nam and Laos, US air attacks on populated areas of North Viet Nam have been increased. In successive days ending December 1971, US aircraft taking off from bases in Thailand, South Viet Nam and carriers anchored in the Tonking Gulf, have been bombing Quang Binh, Ha Tinh, Nghe An, Thanh Hoa, Vinh Phu, Hoa Binh, Quang Ninh provinces, killing and wounding a number of persons there, destroying houses and property.

THIS is a very serious act of war intensification, an odious betrayal of the pledge to cease definitely and unconditionally all bombardments against the DRVN, a complete disregard of vehement opposition from the peoples in the world, including the United States. By increased air bombings over North Viet Nam, the Nixon administration wants to sabotage socialist construction there, play havoc on our kith and kin, and prevent them from discharging their task of a great rear for South Viet Nam. Everybody can see that it is Nixon's premeditated war escalation.

Nobody ignores that these last days mercenaries have been used by him to invade Cambodia, step up the special war in Laos, implement frantically the pacification program in South Viet Nam and repeatedly obstruct the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. A series of such venturesome moves added to increased air bombings against the DRVN, were an attempt to get out of the stalemate, obtain a position of strength from a losing posture. But Nixon has miscalculated. His new military venture in the North once again exposes the Pentagon's obduracy, bellicosity, brutality and perfidy. Nixon has not ceased clamouring about peace, negotiations, termination of US involvement in Indochina and Southeast Asia. But realities these last days give the lie to his hypocritical professions. He is held fully responsible for the consequences arising from his criminal escalation of the war.

WORLD opinion has come out strong against it. Energetic opposition has been surging throughout the world, including the United States, against US air attacks on the DRVN, a socialist, independent and sovereign country. The Governments of the USSR, the People's Republic of China, and other socialist countries, those of the Third World, various international organizations, regional and national, several Communist parties and other political parties have issued statements to condemn the Nixon administration's crime. The world press continues baring Nixon's escalation of the war and is unanimous in asserting that the US aggressors and their flunkeys will meet with inevitable failure in Viet Nam and Indochina.

A new tide of protest is sweeping the United States. In some cities, the Americans, particularly Viet Nam Veterans, held anti Nixon demonstrations. US MPs in both Houses flayed Nixon's rash military venture in North Viet Nam and pointed out that his new mischief will bog him more deeply in Indochina.

To dodge the thunders of public opinion, the White House and the Pentagon try to argue that their risky military move against North Viet Nam is fully consistent with President Nixon's stated policy, "a self-defence act indispensable to ensure safety for US troops in South Viet Nam"... US Defense Secretary went so far as fabricating the so-called "violation by North Viet Nam of the 1968 tacit understanding." The only effect of these worn-out allegations is clearer exposure of the Nixon administration's brutality and perfidy. The DRVN waters, air space and territory are inviolable. The Nixon administration has no right whatever to introduce troops to South Viet Nam neither send aircraft and warships to violate the DRVN air space and waters. Every encroachment upon the Vietnamese people's sacred national rights shall be duly punished. It is our legitimate right to self-defence, the right of a nation resisting invasion.

The masters of their country, sharpening their vigilance and combat readiness, abiding by the December 28 order of the High Command, the heroic people and army of North Viet Nam have scored outstanding exploits by downing tens of US aircraft, captured or annihilated scores of American pilots. From North to South, the whole country is so glad! Our friends all over the world are elated. Our dear Northern brothers have hit hard! The new feats of arms they have just gained together with marvellous achievements of the South Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao peoples and their respective armed forces have smashed to pieces the myth of "US Air Force supremacy," already nullified by the war of destruction against North Viet Nam previously, and the cover to puppet infantry in South Viet Nam, Cambodia and Laos at present. The recent successes of the valiant people and army of North Viet Nam prove that US air forces though massive and intensified, are no trump card for the mercenaries to Vietnamize the war. Neither are they able to save Nixon from failure. His new military venture and ensuing consequences are "the last confession of the bankruptcy of his Vietnamization policy." They make him "bog down more deeply in Indochina" and "add more locks to US POWs' wards."

AFTER taking hard blows, the Nixon administration has had to announce the cessation of its 5-day bombing. It is another avowal of its new military venture's defeat. But Nixon has not given up his dark designs against the DRVN. The US Saigon command declared that the suspension of bombings do not mean that US air attacks on North Viet Nam have ceased. It is an insolent challenge and threat. The US aggressors will be duly punished.

Our people's supreme task is to fight back aggression and save our country. We strongly condemn any US violation of the DRVN territory by US air forces. Inspired by our Northern brothers' exploits, we pledge to smash the White House's Vietnamization of the war.

SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

INDOMITABLE STUDENTS AND PUPILS

TWENTY-TWO years have elapsed since young Tran Van On died a hero in a demonstration staged by Saigon - Cholon students against the French colonialists and American imperialists on Jan. 9, 1950. January 9 has since then been observed as a historic day of the students and pupils of the whole nation. It was also the day of the founding of the Federation of South Viet Nam Liberation Students (Jan. 1, 1960).

In the past twenty-two years South Viet Nam students and pupils, upholding the glorious January 9 tradition, have been fighting perseveringly on various fronts—political, military and cultural—first against the French colonialists then against the American aggressors, chieftain of all imperialists. In those twenty-two gallant years, they have achieved dramatic feats the most outstanding of which has been the successful confrontation with US-Saigon "Vietnamization."

AFTER the lamentable failure of a series of US strategies — unilateral warfare, special warfare and limited warfare — Nixon and his confederates used the warlike and die-hard traitor Nguyen Van Thieu to put into effect their "Vietnamization" in the hope of perpetuating their rule over South Viet Nam with her own manpower and resources. In 1971 in furtherance of Nixon's schemes, Nguyen Van Thieu shrank from nothing to boost his troop strength through impress and to endeavour to consolidate his administration by rigged elections.

As a result, the South Vietnamese students and pupils not only have had to share the sufferings of all their fellow-countrymen, all youths and all members of their respective families, but have fallen victims to the Saigon compulsory military services, an alienated education, a decaying culture, a reactionary doctrine in politics and an only ideal of worshipping the dollar. This explains why they have proved to be among the most heroic and brilliant fighters against the US-Thieu regime and their "Vietnamization" policy. Following in the footsteps of Tran Van On, Le Hong Tu, Vo Thi Thang, they rose up in compact ranks, turning into battlefields their own lecture-rooms or enemy military training camps, and into weapons their books and pens, in a life-and-death battle against the aggressors and quislings and for the preservation of their rights to to be men, to enjoy freedom and to materialize the lofty dreams of the young generation and independence and freedom for the Fatherland.

Having in mind a clearly-defined direction and objectives, the South Vietnamese student organizations were able last year to use versatile tactics and forms of action against the enemy's new crafty moves.

In the "Talk to our countrymen" and "Listen to our countrymen" campaigns, hundreds of shock teams bearing the names of national heroes canvassed streets and markets to inject into the people a stronger dose of hatred—of this hatred which already existed in each Vietnamese for the horrible crimes committed by the US-Saigon at Son My, Binh Duong and right in the streets of Saigon, Da Nang and Hue.

The "Burn US vehicles", "Beat up GI's" drives have transformed city streets into battlefields in which students and youths meted out due punishment to arrogant US troops, who showed utter disregard for Vietnamese lives.

The "Resist terror and repression", "Demand Peace, Freedom and Democratic Right", "Demand Rice and Clothes", "No to the 7 new economic measures", "No higher tuition fees" movements, and collection made in favour of Central Trung Bo cyclone victims and of the Vidopin workers' strike... were all efficient offensives against the US-Saigon rule which stimulated mutual affection and mutual help among our fellow-citizens to deal with enemy atrocities and natural calamities.

In their fight against the enemy, South Viet Nam's students and pupils feared no sacrifice and closely coordinated their actions with other progressives to lay bare the true colours of the US aggressors who masterminded the cooked October elections aimed at maintaining Nguyen Van Thieu in office.

An especially fierce battle was fought by students and pupils against "school militarization." This policy applied by the Nguyen Van Thieu administration is meant to step up forcible conscription of student youths; it has soon roused strong protest from parents and, more particularly, from students who realize that not only is their study interfered with but their very existence is also severely endangered by the measure. Strong actions have been consequently taken by them, either smouldering or explosive; burning of uniforms, flogging training offices, breaking camp gates have been most common, which denotes a new development of the movement and foreshadows its capabilities and orientation.

ACTUATED by a deep hatred of the enemy and a spirit of valiant and stubborn struggle, the South Vietnamese students and pupils who know how to conjugate their efforts with other social segments, have been making a worthy contribution to the anti-US fight of the city folks now engaged in a grim resistance to "Vietnamization."

The US aggressors and their henchman Nguyen Van Thieu have been resorting to all kinds of tricks and brutalities to repress, divide and disrupt the student movement the steady progress of which has caused them grave alarm. But with their four-millenary tradition of undauntedness, and promoting to the full the January 9 spirit, the South Vietnamese students and pupils, tempered in the crucible of a direct confrontation with the enemy, will forever stand in the van of the city folks' efforts to frustrate vicious enemy scheme to "Vietnamize" their war.

AI THI

a la nixon

Fakirs, wags and C°

Mr Nixon is widely known as an entertainer. At TV screen, before the press and even in the street, he presents his item with unmatched mastery, now a man of dry humour like the late Buster Keaton, now a *jeune premier* making a pretty mouth.

He has somewhat of a fakir too. With his confederate Ambassador E. Bunker, his spell kept the whole world in suspense by juggling away all candidates to the Saigon election! Thus, Nguyen Van Thieu, his creature, won with the overwhelming majority of 94%, following a Homeric boxing with his... own shadow!

But Nixon's glory was threatened by the entrance of a new buffoon, Bob Hope, who plumes himself on politics. His tours on the front have increased the number of GIs turned into corpses. He has just announced simply his earnest intention to go to Hanoi with the foolish hope, as his name indicates, to entertain those guys of the people's army and American pilots captured overthere, and coax the North Viet Nam authorities into releasing the American detainees.

Illegal competition! Mr Nixon shouts rightly outraged.
And the US President sends new pilots to Hanoi Hilton Hotel to remain there as... prisoners. The contest is so bitter that Hanoi has to build new Hilton Hotels to shelter all those people.

How can Bob Hope perform his items if the list of US pilots captured continues lengthening irresistibly with every passing day?

That is why Bob's project fails.

And Mr Nixon keeps his title of Prince of Wags.

CHÔNG TRE

IN THE CITIES

• The Thieu clique withdrew on December 25 the licence of the *Tin Viet* information agency and confiscated 10 Saigon papers for having published the message of 60 foreign student organizations praising the South Vietnamese students' valiant struggle for peace and independence. The Saigon General Union of Students has published a strong protest against such arbitrary measures and urged an immediate end to repression of the press.

• The puppet authorities in Vinh Long province have recently impressed hundreds of Buddhist youths and monks. Over 300 Hoa Hao and Buddhist believers streamed to their seat, and demonstrated for the immediate release of the conscripts. 7 protesters were shot dead or wounded by the police. The drafted youths fought with the wicked thugs, captured their firearms and injured 30 of them, and finally many succeeded in freeing themselves.

• At the Saigon House of Representatives, 72 MPs refused on December 23 to vote for Thieu's 1972 war budget on the ground that it would have "serious effect" on the already hard life of the people in the occupied areas.

• *Cong Luan* (Public Opinion) revealed on December 20 that doctors in Saigon were complaining that their practice dropped by 70 per cent, because after Thieu's 1971 "Autumn economic measures" has been enforced, the prices of eastern medicines had risen from 80 to 85 per cent, and that the patients could not afford them. The drug stores also made known that the number of their customers had also decreased visibly.

• Livestock breeders in Saigon and its surroundings have denounced the Thieu administration for continuing to import meat from other countries to feather the nest of Thieu's men and in disregard of the guideline of "self-sufficiency in agriculture" advocated by himself.

The breeding-farm owners also criticized the Saigon Bacteriological Institute's lack of attention to widespread epidemies, because of which in some farms 4,000 pigs died at one time.

• Many Saigon papers strongly condemned the US for its renewed massive air attacks on several populated areas of the DRVN as new proof of the US aggressive design and of the failure of US "Vietnamization."

Tin Sang (Morning News) said, "Despite all lame excuses of Washington, these massive bombings will but reflect more clearly the US government's alarm in front of the imminent collapse of the Nixon doctrine."

• The Saigon General Union of Students issued on December 28 a statement against the US new air strikes at many localities in North Viet Nam.

It called on all students in the South Viet Nam cities to side with other strata of the people and stand ready to cope with the coming moves of the US aggressors.

"We are determined not to let the US freely use its airforce to kill our Nothern fellow-countrymen," it concluded.

A 3-day press stoppage against higher newsprint price

THE Newspaper Publishers' Association in Saigon made known on December 30, 1971 that all the Saigon dailies would stop publication for 3 days beginning January 31, 1972 in protest against Thieu's Ministry of Economy raising the price of newsprint from 530 to 1,200 piastres (Saigon currency) a ream.

It was not the first time the Saigon rule tried to strangle the press. Previously, it had increased the cost of newsprint by 100 per cent.

Everybody is aware that the press in the South Viet Nam cities has, despite rigorous censorship, partially bared US-Saigon schemes' and crimes, and reflected the people's disgraceful and wretched life and the townsfolk's ebullient actions for democratic freedoms, welfare, peace and national independence.

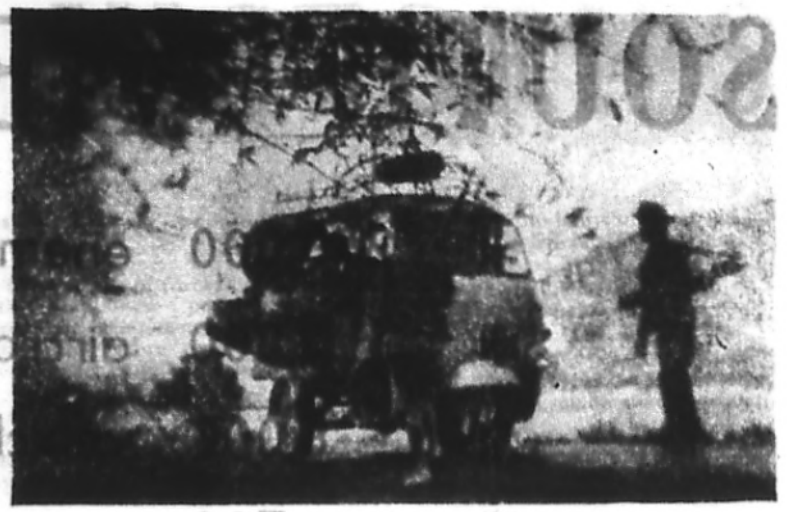
To stamp out the stirring mass movement and basely retaliate on publishers and pressmen, the Saigon administration has stopped at no sordid and brutal manœuvres, from seizing, fining and closing down papers to manhandling and jailing pressmen and editors-in-chiefs and sacking of editorial offices. Recently, with the "Autumn economic measures," Nguyen Van Thieu has schemed to exact more money from the population in enemy-held areas to finance Nixon's "Vietnamization." After the devaluation of the South Viet Nam piastre, the prices of a series of necessities have been rocketing, which has made bad worse for the masses of the people.

The price hike of newsprint by 200% by the Thieu administration has struck a body blow at the freedom of the press so far advertised by it, at the newspapers' owners and journalists who have been already struggling hard to make both ends meet. In addition, by creating difficulties and obstacles to the press, the US-Saigon rule hopes to stem the South Vietnamese urban people's agitation, silence the opposition criticism of the present dictatorial and warlike regime, the aggressive war, and popular claims for democratic freedoms, independence and peace.

The democratic and patriotic journalists in the South Viet Nam liberated areas, fully support the protest action of our confreres in Saigon. They demand that the Saigon administration immediately meet the thoroughly reasonable claims of the Saigon press and respect the freedom of the press in the areas still under its control.

A Liberation Studio Film

A VILLAGE ON THE TRA RIVER



A documentary of the South Viet Nam *Giai Phong* (Liberation) Studio, the film depicts the life and fight against the US-Saigon rural pacification in a small village of Quang Ngai province.

Director Nghiem Phu My and Cameraman Tran Dong have produced a vivid picture of the valiant and indomitable population of Quang Ngai, resolute to "stick to every inch of their land and village." Although the houses and gardens have been razed by enemy bombs and shells, the revolutionary cadres resist shoulder to shoulder with the people. Life continues with vigour. Activities are restored and develop. Schools re-open (after enemy posts have been levelled by the revolutionary armed forces and people).

Three short reels are enough to drive home to the viewer the inevitable victory of people's war over the enemy's rural pacification plan.

The film has had a warm reception in Viet Nam and been awarded a "Golden Dove" at the Leipzig film festival in 1971.

How can a camel pass through a needle's eye?

(Concluded)

THE best explanation for Thieu's recent "reforms" has perhaps been given by M. Laird, US Secretary of Defense, when he said in Kansas City on November 23, 1971 that the economic problem was on top of the three major problems which remained to be solved in South Viet Nam. It was the problem of a healthy, harmonious and stable development of an economy which devotes the lion's share of its resources to national defence (*AP*, November 23, 1971). This remark uttered by Laird after his fourth trip to South Viet Nam to speed up "Vietnamization" was meant to help the Saigon administration build an economy capable of meeting a large part of its war cost. His hope was very understandable: Laird wanted not only that all corpses littering the battlefield should be of yellow skin but that the sinews of war (not only for South Viet Nam) should be supplied by the South Vietnamese themselves. This is the principle of the "sharing of responsibility" of the "Nixon doctrine" and no wonder that what Laird had called "development of a healthy, harmonious and stable economy" synchronized with Thieu's statement about a "prosperous future" or Ngoc's "autarkic economy" and "reduction of dependency on US aid." Aggressors and traitors agree that the South Vietnamese not only shed their blood and tears in this war but contribute the sweat of their brows to "sharing their responsibility" in this aggression.

But there's many a slip 'twixt the cup and the lip'. How can Thieu build up an economy capable of feeding the war by the war? All the elaborate measures advocated on November 15, 1971 boil down to two main points, namely: incentive to investments and exports. However, everybody in Saigon knows that this is labour lost. "These two things are hard to reconcile and are irreconcilable for the time being." (*AFP*, November 15, 1971)

With regard to exports, the measures taken to impel them prove to be futile for the simple reason that South Viet Nam has nothing to export. Realistic-minded economists foresee that it would take South Viet Nam five or six years in the present state of security to reach the 1963 export level of 75 million dollars: even so it would represent only one-tenth of the present import figure of 750 million dollars, and no economy, even healthy, can withstand such a trade deficit. A rice exporter before the war, South Viet Nam has had to import it for seven years running to the tune of 600,000 tons per year. Rubber, another major export line has been tapped on less than half its exploitable area (30,000 out of 70,000 hectares). In a word "economy has virtually ground to a standstill" (*AP*, November 10, 1971). The South Viet Nam government has nothing to lose in the trade balance for the simple reason that it has no trade balance at all (*AP*, October 11, 1970); this is characteristic of its foreign trade. In fact almost all import items derive from American "aid"...

As far as investments are concerned, the withdrawal of big US security forces makes businessmen suspicious of the future. They would rather put their money in Swiss banks or in some short-term businesses rather than in hasardous enterprises (*USIS*, November 3, 1971).

In such a condition, where can Thieu find the money to cover the ever-increasing war expenditure? He has had to resort to taxes. Over the last few years, he has hit hard at imports, chiefly at US supplies of the commercialized aid programs, and touted for more US "aid." These two major sources of revenue have become more and more precarious, witness the recent attitude of the US Congress toward the "aid" issue. There remain the last-ditch measures: taxation and inflation. In the present "economic reforms" Thieu's taxation hits not only the big towns as previously but also the countryside (*AFP*, November 16, 1971). Faced with unemployment and a high cost of living, the South Viet Nam townsfolk will see more clearly the true nature of the aggressors and traitors to the country. A strong wave of protest and indignation has had risen against the "economic reforms" since November 1 not only among the wage-earners but also among other sections of the population. A Buddhist priest in Saigon has dubbed this as a cake made to be looked at and not to be eaten. Such a cake has been served previously on three occasions, namely the promises made as early as 1967 to end the war, to enforce democracy and to carry out social reforms. But none of these promises have been honoured.

Ten days before Thieu's message, on November 4, 1971, one could read in the Saigon paper *Tin Sang* the following comment:

"It is surmised that there exists between Nixon and Nguyen Van Thieu some commitment to raise American stake in South Viet Nam. The policy of the US in the period to come is to feather its own nest through the sacrifice of native peoples swayed by US-backed local administrations. The future of South Viet Nam will be that of an American possession bearing a local label..."

Such is the design of the Americans and Nguyen Van Thieu...

But how can they pass a camel through a needdle's eye now after futile attempts to do so in the past decade?

VAN DUC

SOUTH VIET NAM 1971: PLAF BIG VICTORIES

* 250,000 enemy wiped out
* 1,800 aircraft downed
* 8,000 vehicles seized or destroyed
* 700 war vessels and combat launches sunk

The South Viet Viet Nam PLAF Command has made public a communiqué on military victories in 1971. It reads:

THE US imperialists and their lackeys have sustained repeated and heavy setbacks but they are stubbornly pursuing the "Nixon doctrine" and continuing the "Vietnamization of the war" policy to prolong and expand the criminal war of aggression to the whole of Indochina. The striking feature in 1971 is that the Nixon clique spared no efforts to win a "military and political" victory in the hope of assuring a position of strength and reversing the trend of the war, therefore to remove the serious obstacles in the political and economic fields in the United States before the 1972 presidential election. In furtherance of this vicious and perfidious scheme, the US imperialists have taken a series of reactionary strategic measures:

1 — Urgently building and modernizing the Saigon regular forces not only to replace the US troops but also to make it the key force on various battlefields in Indochina. Particularly, they mustered a great part of the general reserve and regular forces of the Saigon puppet army with maximum US air and logistic support to launch simultaneously two large-scale operations on Highway 9 — Southern Laos and in Northeastern Cambodia in an attempt to carry out their 1971 dry season plan and win a decisive military victory for their "Vietnamization of the war" plan.

2 — Stepping up the "rural pacification" plan in South Viet Nam with the most extremely barbarous measures in the illusory hope to wipe out or paralyse the revolutionary base, to drive our liberation armed forces out of the villages and hamlets and use the counter-revolutionary forces to control a large part of the territory and the population in the countryside.

3 — The Nixon administration obdurately maintained the traitor Nguyen Van Thieu and the most reactionary and bellicose agents through a brazenly fraudulent one-man election.

4 — To save the puppet Phnom Penh and Vientiane administrations from imminent collapse and to pursue the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, the Nixon administration massively carried out the "Khmerization" and "Laotianization of the war" plan so as to maintain the reactionary neo-colonialism of the US in the whole of Indochina.

Along with carrying out these reactionary strategic measures, the US has intentionally taken provocative acts and systematically sabotaged the Paris Conference on Viet Nam. But in 1971, our people and our liberation armed forces, braving all hardships and sacrifices, persisted in and stepped up the resistance against US aggression, for national salvation and won many brilliant successes, upsetting all strategic calculations of the US.

Firstly, **our people and liberation armed forces have brought into full play the position of initiative on various battlefronts, repeatedly attacked the enemy in the three areas: the mountainous regions, the plains and the urban centres, and in particular have frustrated all big military adventures of the US-puppets, dealing a heavy blow at the enemy's high effort in their "Vietnamization" strategy.**

In early 1971, with the splendid exploits in northern Quang Tri, the Central Viet Nam High Plateaux, Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Da Lat, My Tho and Rach Gia provinces, Song Mao and U Minh areas and other battlefronts in South Viet Nam, our people and liberation armed forces in co-ordination with the fraternal Lao and Cambodian peoples and armies in Southern Laos and Northeastern Cambodia smashed the US-puppets' dark design in the 1970-1971 dry season plan, wiping out an important part of the seasoned mobile force and destroying a large quantity of war means of the Saigon puppet army, causing it to lose its strength seriously.

As has been proved by facts, the Saigon puppet army has not been able to play its role as backbone of the stooge armies and the strategic combat force of the US in Indochina as Nixon has hoped it to. Morever, the Saigon puppet army had to keep a major part of its forces in South Viet Nam to cope with the offensive of our people and the liberation armed forces from all sides.

As for the general reserve of the Saigon puppet army and the main force units of the Saigon puppet, they had not recovered from the previous blows when additional stunning blows were rained on them in Quang Tri, the High Plateaux, Tay Ninh (Highway 22), U Minh, Rach Gia and other places.

Meanwhile, the Lon Nol puppet army, although greatly beefed up by the US in terms of aircraft and logistics could not escape from the onslaught of the Cambodian liberation armed forces either. The Cambodian liberation armed forces wiped out many battalions and brigades of Phnom Penh troops in the Highway 6 area and west of Phnom Penh.

The Vientiane rightist troops and Thai mercenaries also suffered telling blows and took heavy casualties and were compelled to withdraw from the Bolovens Plateau and the Plain of Jars which they had illegally occupied.

In 1971, the US imperialists and their flunkeys did their utmost on the political front but they also sustained heavy setbacks.

According to still incomplete statistics, in 1971, the South Vietnamese people and the liberation armed forces wiped out nearly **250,000** enemy troops including **20,000** GIs and satellite troops.

In terms of units, they annihilated and heavily decimated **5** regiments, **68** battalions, **550** companies, **600** platoons and **28** "pacification" groups, shot down and destroyed on the ground **1,800** aircraft, wrecked and captured nearly **8,000** military vehicles, demolished **650** howitzers and heavy mortars, sank **700** war vessels and combat launches, derailed **500** trains and wagons and seized **15,000** guns of various kinds.

Secondly, **the South Viet Nam people's anti-enemy "pacification" movement in the rural areas has made marked progress in quality, spread widely in many places and are powerfully attacking the enemy on all the three fronts: military, political and agitation among enemy troops.**

The struggle between us and the enemy to seize control of the countryside has unfolded in a very fierce and complex manner. The more the US and puppets are ruthless and perfidious, the higher is our people's hatred for them seething, and the greater their determination to close their ranks and persist in the dauntless resistance. In the past year, millions of people have risen up, destroyed or disbanded the enemy coercive machine, protested against the dismantling of houses, the devastation of vegetation and orchards, forcible relocation of the population, the conscription into the "popular defence" force, the "upgrading" of local forces to the puppet army, pressganging, etc. They have recorded one glorious victory after another. Hundreds of thousands of people destroyed "strategic hamlets" and returned to their native villages to resume production. The seething struggle in the rural areas under the enemy's temporary control has expanded to the areas where the enemy's coercive machine is the strongest.

The regional armed and political forces have overcome all hardships, firmly held on to the people, and have developed not only in numbers but also in quantity and achieved marked progress in their activities. Many units of the district and provincial armed forces have fought against the enemy in many battles, neatly wiping out many "civil guard" companies, levelling many posts, thus greatly disintegrating the puppet army. Guerilla warfare has been firmly maintained and developed quickly. The people's movement of making booby-traps, laying mines and attacking the enemy with rudimentary weapons has vigorously developed in many areas. The agitation work among puppet soldiers and their families has also expanded. Regional forces and guerillas in close co-ordination with the people punished many cruel agents, and many nests of cruel agents and neatly wiped out many "Phoenix" secret agents. As a result, the enemy coercive machine and forces have been disbanded and weakened on a large scale. The "civil guard" force has been seriously reduced and the "popular defence" organizations in many places virtually paralysed.

Through tremendous efforts, the people and liberation armed forces in many localities have seriously foiled the US-puppets' "pacification" plan, thus creating basic conditions for dashing forward and completely defeating their extremely perfidious and brutal scheme.

Thirdly, in close co-ordination with, and greatly inspired by the splendid victories of the regular forces on the battlefields and those achieved on the anti-pacification front, the struggle of the people in urban centres has developed to a higher stage with higher quality and more diversified forms.

In Saigon and many other cities and provincial capitals in South Viet Nam, the people have pushed forward the anti-US and anti-Thieu struggle which has become more and more seething, violently shaking the central puppet administration. The US and its puppets have landed in a critical political crisis.

The great victories recorded by our people in 1971 are of important strategic significance and have created new and fine prospects for our people's resistance against the US aggressors, for national salvation.

1. The South Viet Nam armed forces and people have seriously frustrated the US imperialists' "Vietnamization of the war" policy at its highest level and will completely defeat all their criminal schemes of aggression.

In 1971, the US imperialists and their puppets made great efforts to frantically counter-attack the revolutionary forces in the vain hope of winning a decisive victory for the "Vietnamization of the war" plan. However, all the four mainstays of this manœuvre were dealt hard blows by our people and armed forces:

The puppet army, the backbone of the "Vietnamization of the war" policy, has been seriously declining both in morale and combat strength.

The Saigon puppet administration is being shaken violently. It is profoundly hated by our people, its traitorous nature has become more apparent and its inner strife more violent. Thieu is being driven to utter isolation and his collapse is unavoidable.

The more perfidious and brutal the "pacification" plan is, the more fierce resistance it will face and it is confronting the danger of total bankruptcy.

As the US and their puppets prolong and expand the war, their political and economic situation has become more chaotic and precarious than ever and Nixon is being fiercely protested and driven into utter isolation in the United States and the world.

Facing the danger of bankruptcy of his "Vietnamization of the war" policy, Nixon, like a drowning man snatching at a straw, is stubbornly stepping up the "Khmerization" and "Laotianization" policy and recklessly expanding the war in Cambodia and Laos. But this has only made the peoples of the three Indochinese countries strengthen their unity and closely co-ordinate in fighting to inflict heavier failures on the US aggressors and their lackeys and drive them deeper into the bog on the three battlefields in Indochina.

2. The South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed Forces, tempered in many trials and having made long strides forward in all spheres and defeated all kinds of US expeditionary troops and their puppet armies, will certainly defeat the Saigon puppet army, whatever the amount of war means and fire support the US may provide them with.

Last year, all the three kinds of armed forces of the PLAF have marked by grown in all aspects. The regular units have fulfilled well their tasks in big actions, neatly wiping out enemy forces, displayed high mobility between the various services. The regional forces have firmly stood on their ground in all the three strategic zones, co-ordinating ever more closely between the three kinds of armed forces and between different forms of struggles. In particular they have aimed accurately their blows at the enemy, neatly wiping out or disbanding many enemy units, capturing many enemy troops and seizing a large quantity of weapons.

All enemy tactics such as "airborne tactic", "hilltop enclave tactic," relying on air and artillery fire and the piercing force of their armour, have been frustrated by our people and armed forces.

Nixon's formula "puppet infantry troops plus US air power" to win victory has gone bankrupt.

Since the Lunar New Year's Festival, never has the Saigon puppet regular force faced so serious collapse and never has its troops surrendered or were captured in so great numbers as in 1971. The soldiers' confidence is falling down, their morale and combat capacity are markedly decreasing. In the past year, nearly 300,000 Saigon puppet soldiers were put out of action on the three Indochinese battlefronts, of which 24 multi-battalions, regiments and brigades and 110 mechanized and artillery battalions including their most seasoned forces like paratroops, marines and rangers... were wiped out or heavily decimated.

In 1964, our people's liberation forces, though at their nascent stage, already defeated the hundreds of thousands-strong puppet army and brought to failure their "special war" strategy.

In 1968, the PLAF won such splendid victories that the US expeditionary army and its stooge army of 1,200,000 men were defeated and the US "limited war" strategy went bankrupt.

In the present situation when the US troops and the satellite armies have to withdraw from South Viet Nam and when the Saigon puppet troops are in serious disintegration, our heroic PLAF together with our people are fully able to defeat the Saigon puppet army even if the latter receives more US dollars, weapons and air support.

3. The great and all-round victories in the past year have created a new and very favorable position of offensive for our people and armed forces.

That is the balance of forces between the South Vietnamese people and armed forces and the enemy which is evolving more and more in our favor and to the detriment of the enemy.

That is the position of all the three kinds of our armed service which are being deployed in a general attack on the enemy in all the three strategic zones.

That is the position of our people in country and town who are rising up more powerful than ever to attack the enemy violently in the military and political fields as well as in the agitation work among the enemy ranks, in spite of the enemy's fascist measures of repression.

That is the position of strength of our entire country in the united fight against the enemy. The blood-sealed North, our great rear, has heroically overcome all difficulties to build socialism while wholeheartedly aiding the South, the great frontline, and at the same time, stands ready to smash all manoeuvres and provocative acts of the US aggressors.

These great and all-round victories of our armed forces and people in 1971 are precisely thanks to the completely correct line of resistance and the clearsighted leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation of the RSVN PRG, the boundless sacrifices and extremely valiant fighting spirit of our entire armed forces and people in the South and throughout the country, the close fighting co-ordination of the two fraternal countries of Laos and Cambodia, the active assistance of the countries in the socialist camp and the warm support of the peace-loving people throughout the world.

The Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces warmly commends our entire people and all our officers and combatants for their determination to fight and to win, overcome all difficulties and hardships and relentlessly attack the enemy and rise up to seize power.

We express our profound gratitude to the army and people in the North who have stopped at no hardships and sacrifices to give wholehearted assistance to the blood-sealed army and people in the South in the fight.

We warmly hail the splendid victories and the spirit of close unity in fighting of the armed forces and peoples of the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

We express our sincere gratitude to the brother countries in the socialist camp for their great assistance and the peace-loving people in the world for their warm support to the struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

All cadres, combatants and countrymen!

Our people are winning great victories in all fields!

The US failure is evident. But the Nixon clique remain very obdurate and perfidious. They are trying to cling to their doomed "Vietnamization of the war" policy. They are pushing ahead their premeditated adventurous schemes and acts of war in an attempt to impose their rule on our people and the fraternal peoples of Laos and Cambodia.

But they cannot reverse the trend of the situation which is developing in our favour and in their disfavour. Let our entire people and armed forces bring into full play the favourable conditions and brave all obstacles to dash forward in the impetus of victory and more and yet greater successes.

All the liberation armed forces are determined to wipe out more live force and destroy an important quantity of the enemy war means, annihilate many seasoned and units of cruel agents to effectively assist our people's uprisings and together with the people advance towards completely defeating the enemy "pacification" plan. We are determined to co-ordinate more closely with the peoples and armies of Cambodia and Laos to totally defeat the "Nixon doctrine" in Indochina.

The US imperialists will certainly be defeated!

Our people are bound to win!

Our great rear

"SILVER SWALLOWS" SMASHING "PHANTOM"

CAME the order to take off. Two jets of the DRVN air force dashed toward the main runway. Another signal crackled. Dao quickly released the brake and left the runway, followed by Giap. The two "Silver Swallows" darted off into the air. It was 01:23 p.m. December 18, 1971.

In no time Dao and Giap were present at the "tryst." The sky was clear and breezy with some woolly clouds shrouding high mountain-tops. From the western frontier a flight of jet fighters were roaring in, in single file and with a wide space between them. "Attention, 72. Enemy ahead, at X distance, Y altitude."

"Attention, 32. Turn left, follow 72 closely."

Dao and Giap recognized the familiar voice of their deputy-commander from the ground command tower. This feeling of being watched by his superior in his first sortie gave Dao added strength. His Mig skimmed the T. mountain range in a steady flight. The pilot was confident in his training and his mates' experience. He also thought of the mechanics Thuy, Thanh, Hai working day and night on the runway... He wanted to achieve a feat to mark the coming December 19, 20 and 22 celebrations.

"72. I am at your side."

Flying number 2 on the right, Giap kept in close touch with Dao. Suddenly he sighted a small black spot ahead. He banked his plane to make sure that it was a foe then signalled to his mate:

"Attention, 72. Enemy at X. kilometres, 30 degrees, to the right."

Having spotted his adversary, Dao raced at him. The dark dot loomed larger and larger. Dao pulled the control lever, dropped the wing fuel tanks and zoomed up into position.

"Here is 72, target in sight, I am ready."

Dao reported to the HQ then warned his mate:

"Attention, 32, mind your rear."

Upon receiving the "go ahead" from the ground, Dao zeroed in and held firm the control lever. Suddenly he heard Giap's voice:

"Watch your left!"

The black spot flashed past. Dao pulled the control lever and hocked to intercept the enemy, with Giap close behind, now on the right, now on the left, ready to cover his comrade.

For the second time Dao zeroed in on his target. In vain did the foe try to escape, a mossy F-4 Phantom.

As soon as he got into effective fire range, Dao pressed the trigger. A red stream of fire from his plane's wing spurted out. The US aircraft burst into flames, lost altitude and plummeted to the ground. The other marauders put on speed and fled.

"It's burning. The pilot's bailed out."

Giap's exclamation of joy rang into the loud-speaker of the control tower.

"Hurrah for 72 and 32," commended the HQ.

the DRVN in brief

• On the occasion of the New Year, President Ton Duc Thang has sent flowers and New Year greeting to a number of army units, establishments, branches and localities to congratulate them on their outstanding achievements in the fighting, production and work.

• Truong Chinh, Political Bureau member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, has recently visited an art exhibition by Quang Ninh miners. He commended the workers' love for art, and encouraged them to strive to create works depicting the spirit of emulation in selfless labour production and combat of the Vietnamese miners.

• Premier Pham Van Dong has recently received G.A. Karavaev, Central Committee member of the Soviet Communist Party and chairman of the Sub-Committee for Viet Nam-USSR Scientific and Technical Co-operation, and members of his delegation which had come to Viet Nam for the signing of the 1971-1972 co-operation accord.

• On January 1, 1972, Le Duan, First Secretary of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee, had a cordial interview with engineers, cadres and workers of a number of engineering establishments.

• Nguyen Duy Trinh, Political Bureau member of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and Vice-Premier of the DRVN Government, recently requested Othirin Tsend, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Mongolian People's Republic in Hanoi to convey the DRVN Government and people's thanks to their Mongolian counterparts for their non-refund economic aid for 1972.

• The Hanoi Administrative Committee and Viet Nam Fatherland Front Committee have jointly sponsored a cordial get-together with the visiting delegations of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and of the Viet Nam Alliance of National Democratic and Peace Forces.

Mr Tran Duy Hung, Mayor of Hanoi, voiced on behalf of the Hanoians profound gratitude to the Southern kith and kin and pledged to devotedly fulfil their duty towards South Viet Nam, their beloved fellow-countrymen in Hue-Saigon, and translate into reality the watchwords "Hanoi is ready to answer South Viet Nam's call" and "Hanoi is ready to answer Hue and Saigon's call."

In return, the representatives of the two delegations reiterated the South Vietnamese people's resolve to liberate South Viet Nam, defend the North and the capital city, the heart of the whole country.

The Hanoi Administrative Committee, in co-ordination with various organizations, held a festival to commemorate the tradition of resistance to defend the capital city so as to further raise the people's heroic and indomitable fighting spirit.

An exercise on combat preparedness was performed in Ha Dong. The armed forces of the provincial capital, of government organs, branches and organizations and tens of thousands of people took part in the drill with great enthusiasm. Brigadier-general Nguyen Don, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Viet Nam People's Army, visited the drilling ground.

In the footsteps of their elders

A Poem from Saigon Students

Time for action

In the name of light and freedom,
In the name of blood and tears,
Comrades,
Let's march forward,
Tread flat the spike-bristling barricade,
Breast the rain of bullets,
And mount on the wall built with the glow of youth...

In the name of the blood flowing in my heart,
In the name of the ardour burning in your chest,
Let's respond to the call of the future,
Rise up and shoulder to shoulder
March forward.

Grasp firm my hand
And let's tighten our lethal stranglehold
Around those who take guns and bullets for power,
Prisons for weapons,
Violence for glory.
Without regret we willingly lay down our lives
Smiling an everlasting smile.
And with eternal remembrance,
The soil of our Homeland
Will cover our souls immortal.

VU QUE

(from the play in verse **A drop of our blood is a sea of peace** in *Huong Di* (Direction of our March) Organ of the Joint Faculty of Van Hanh Buddhist Institute)

For the Lao Patriotic Front founding anniversary (Jan. 6)

SIXTEEN FRUITFUL AND GALLANT YEARS

ON January 6, 1956, succeeding the Free Lao Front (Neo Lao Itsala), the Lao Patriotic Front (Neo Lao Haksat) came into being, assumed the historic mission of leading the Lao people of all nationalities in the combat against the chieftain of all imperialisms – US imperialism – which had set out to turn Laos into a neo-colony and a springboard for assaults on the other countries of Indochina and Southeast Asia.

The past sixteen years of the Lao revolution under the leadership of the LPF headed by Prince Souphanouvong have been a period of valiant fighting and signal successes. All nationalities have come together and been waging an allround people's war, foiling all military adventures and plots of the US imperialists and the Vientiane client administration, and registering far-reaching achievements in all fields.

The patriotic armed forces, tested and steeled in the crucible of the fighting have become ever more mature and strong. They have put out of action nearly 200,000 enemy troops, downed or destroyed 2,200 US aircraft. All adverse "mop-ups," incursions and full-scale attacks against the liberated zone were crushed, such as Operations *Cu Kiet* and *Tha Nong Kiet* by American, Vientiane and Vang Pao troops in 1970, and *Lam Son* 719 by American, Saigon and Vientiane forces in 1971. The setbacks incurred by the US aggressors under Nixon have been heavier than under any preceding administration. From Jan. 1969 to Aug. 1971 the liberation armed forces and people put out of combat over 79,000 GI's and mercenaries (against 29,000 under Johnson), downed, destroyed or captured 1,242 aircraft (against 956 under Johnson). In the first eight months of 1971, 32,000 adverse soldiers (10,000 more than in all 1970) were knocked out – among them 250 Americans, over 15,400 Saigon, 2,000 Thai and 3,700 Vientiane mercenaries, and 11,000 of Vang Pao's Green Berets. 665 aircraft (almost twice as many as in 1970) were downed, destroyed or seized, 770 military vehicles – including 300 tanks and armoured carriers – blasted out of commission or captured. The liberation forces also seized 10,900 weapons – including 2,100 artillery pieces – over 400 transceivers and thousands of tons of other war materials.

The latest exploit of the liberation forces and people in the Plain of Jars - Xieng Khoang area, where 3,100 Thai and Vang Pao mercenaries were wiped out, struck another telling blow at the Nixon doctrine in Indochina. The reactionary policy of "Laotiannization" and the so-called "model" warfare that "can be applied in other Third World countries" have obviously gone bankrupt just like "Vietnamization" and "Khmerization."

Military gains have safeguarded the liberated areas and expanded them into a continued zone from north to south covering two-thirds of the country's territory and sheltering a half of the population. Here agricultural, industrial as well as cultural, health and educational activities have been constantly developed, and the material and moral welfare of the people raised. The acreage under summer rice in 1971 increased by 338% in comparison with 1966 and production by 5 times as compared with 1968. Hog breeding went up by 35%. Up to early 1970 there existed about 50 medium and small industrial enterprises including weaving, mechanics, melting, auto repair, pottery and husking workshops. There are also workshops making bread, sweets, salt, chalk and pharmaceutical products. The 1970-1971 school year saw the elimination of illiteracy in 795 villages – 140 more than the previous year. The general-education enrolment reached 68,000 or 30,000 more than in 1967-1968, preparations are under way for the building of a higher-learning establishment using Lao as the vehicle language. There are 88 centrally and district-run hopitals with 2,400 beds and 1,800 doctors, assistant doctors and nurses or a growth of 1,600 in comparison with 1966. A number of hospitals use eastern medicine under the direction of 220 physicians. 1,600 nurses and assistant nurses were trained in various villages. The liberated zone has become the steady rear base of the lao revolution, a vivid projection (of which her people are rightly proud) of an independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos.

Weaving in Lao liberated area

Clearly, the Lao revolution is advancing faster than in any previous period. The people's unity has been broadened, and co-operation between the fraternal nationalities on the basis of equality and mutual assistance strengthened. The militant alliance between the Patriotic Front and the neutralist patriotic forces grows steadier with every passing day. Patriotism, revolutionary heroism and national pride motivate all sections of the Lao nationalities. The status of the Lao people and the Patriotic Front keeps mounting in the outside world.

The winning posture of the Lao revolution is unquestionable, and so is the failure of US imperialism. The realities of the past sixteen years have demonstrated this truism of our era: a tiny but united people who stands up under the direction of a vanguard party possessed of a judicious political and military line, and enjoys the sympathy and support of progressive mankind, can confront every aggressor, be it American imperialism.

Laos and Viet Nam are close neighbours. The Lao Patriotic Front has always lent total and timely support to the policies and acts of the SVN NFL and PRG. The Lao people and liberation forces have been intimately co-operating with their South Vietnamese counterparts in combat as well as in political and diplomatic actions; they have stimulated them and provided them with effective assistance in their resistance to American aggression.

On the occasion of the Lao Patriotic Front founding anniversary, the South Vietnamese extend to the entire Lao people and the LPF their sincere and deep feelings of gratitude. True to the joint declaration of the Indochinese Peoples' Summit Conference, the South Vietnamese once again reaffirm their total and consistent support to the patriotic struggle and the glorious revolutionary cause of the Lao people, and pledge to continue to join forces with them and the Cambodian people in the common attempt to drive the American aggressors out of the Indochinese peninsula, topple the puppet administration in each country, and achieve complete victory.

May the Lao people "unite further and get the upper hand of the 'US special war' and the US imperialists' neo-colonialism, and overthrow the traitors to the nation, in order to build a peaceful, independent, neutral, democratic, unified and prosperous Laos, thereby contributing to the restoration and defence of peace in Indochina, Southeast Asia and the world." (LPF Political Program).

Bulgarian Delegation visits the D.R.V.N.

AT the invitation of the Viet Nam Workers' Party Central Committee and the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam Government, a Bulgarian Party and Government Delegation, led by Stanko Todorov, Political Bureau member of the Bulgarian Committee Party Central Committee and Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic, paid an official visit to the DRVN from December 21 to 27, 1971.

During its stay in Viet Nam, the Delegation visited a number of economic and cultural establishments, Haiphong port, Thai Binh and Quang Ninh provinces, and met workers, working people and Viet Nam People's Armymen. The DRVN Party and Government Delegation and the Bulgarian Party and Government Delegation held cordial talks and signed a joint communiqué.

It said:

"The two parties strongly denounce the US imperialists for prolonging, intensifying and expanding the aggressive war in Indochina, challenging the Geneva Agreements of 1954 on Indochina and those of 1962 on Laos and condemned their extremely savage crimes in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia. Both parties regarded the 7-point solution of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam at the Paris Conference on Viet Nam as a sound basis for the peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam issue.

They urged that the US give up its obdurate stand and begin serious negotiations at the Paris Conference on the basis of the RSVN PRG 7-point solution which has been approved and firmly supported by world opinion.

The Bulgarian Party and Government Delegation looked upon the Vietnamese people's successful and heroic fight against the US imperialists as an important factor of the strengthening of solidarity among the world communist movement and the development of the world drive against imperialism for peace, national independence, democracy and socialism.

The Bulgarian Communist Party People's Republic Government and people reaffirmed their resolve to continue fulfilling their internationalist duty, supporting and assisting the brother Vietnamese people's resistance against the US imperialists' aggression till complete victory and their building of socialism in the DRVN.

The Viet Nam Workers' Party, the DRVN Government and the Vietnamese people expressed their sincere and profound gratitude for the substantial support and wholehearted and valuable assistance of the Bulgarian Communist Party, People's Republic Government and the brother Bulgarian people.

The Vietnamese people greatly rejoiced at the brilliant results recorded by the Bulgarian people in their socialist construction, and sincerely wished the brother Bulgarian people great successes in the realization of the tasks laid down in the program approved by the 10th Congress of the Bulgarian Communist Party on the building of a developed socialist society."

"Viet vets" against the war

IN the closing days of 1971, Viet Nam veterans stepped up their anti-war actions in Washington, New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Collingwood...

They distributed leaflets and poems and held press conferences exposing the US government war crimes and claims that the US was gradually pulling out of Viet Nam. In fact, the Nixon administration is accelerating its "Vietnamization." At Christmastide the "Viet Vets" published a statement saying that 1971 was the 11th year in which the Americans celebrated the new year while guns were still booming in Viet Nam, they put up their Christmas trees while American planes were spraying toxic chemicals on South Viet Nam forests. Santa Claus distributed presents to the little ones while Vietnamese children were receiving thousands of tons of bombs on their heads, the Americans were having their Christmas pudding while the innocent people in Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia were crowding into their shelters to dodge American bombs and shells.

Carrying "Today one hundred people more will be killed in Indochina!", "End the War" posters, the "Viet Vets" staged on December 29, 1971 a march from the Capitol to the White House. In the lead of the march were the veterans carrying in state a symbolic coffin in protest against Nixon sending American youths to a useless death in Southeast Asia. When the demonstrators passed in front of the White House, the ex-servicemen spilt bags of blood on the road to show their abhorrence of the nasty and bloody war obstinately pursued by the Nixon administration.

Nixon's new war acts under cross fire

20,000 Londoners urging US withdrawal from Indochina

THE new air attacks against the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam by the US imperialists have been strongly criticized by people throughout the world including US progressives.

The governments of the URSS, the People's Republic of China, of other socialist countries, the Third World, and many world organizations such as the World Federation of Trade Unions, the International Organization of Journalists..., and solidarity with Viet Nam and support Viet Nam bodies of several countries have issued protests against US frenzied air raids, promised ever more resolute support and active assistance to the Vietnamese people's anti-US, pro-national salvation resistance till complete victory.

"How can we reconcile these aggressive and other war acts of the US in Indochina," the Soviet Government's statement said, "with Washingtons' frequent declarations on the 'de-Americanization' of the Indochinese conflict, and professed desire for a peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem? The new criminal acts committed by American airmen against the DRVN have once again revealed the hypocrisy of such protestations. They have shown that in reality Washington persists in the search of a military decision for the Viet Nam issue. By means of the cynical 'Vietnamization' programme, war threats and provocations, the US imperialists have been seeking to impose a solution to the Indochinese issue on their terms and in disregard of the people's will in that region."

The statement of the Chinese Foreign Ministry pointed out:

"To hurl the airforce into incursions and bombings of the DRVN is a US desperate effort prompted by bitter setbacks on the Indochinese battlefields.

Some time ago, the heroic Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples, in close co-ordinated actions and standing on a common battlefront, launched violent offensives against the enemy and won brilliant successes on the South Viet Nam battlefield and especially along Highway 6 (Cambodia) and in the Plain of Jars (Laos), which has driven the US aggressors and their lackeys to an ever more difficult situation. Despite their seemingly terrifying raids on North Viet Nam, they are in reality vulnerable and cannot in the least intimidate the heroic Vietnamese people and ward off reverses on all the Indochinese battlefields. US imperialism has been duly punished by the North Vietnamese army and people. If it continues to obstinately expand its aggressive war, it will only harvest even greater disasters."

Canadian Foreign Minister M. Sharp said:

"We condemn any act which helps expand the war in Indochina. I shall not hesitate to repeat once again this statement on the bombing raids (by US planes) in North Viet Nam."

French Foreign Minister Schuman recalled President Pompidou's statement on October 1, 1971 and his own statement before the French National Assembly on November 3, 1971 - against the US use of tens of millions of tons of bombs and shells against the Indochinese countries.

The World Federation of Democratic Women has sent to the US government a protest against the US new air attacks on the DRVN, and urged an immediate end to these aggressive acts, a prompt and total US troop pull-out from South Viet Nam, and respect of the Vietnamese, Lao and Cambodian peoples' legitimate rights.

The Tri-Continental Solidarity Organization has addressed to Premier Pham Van Dong a message strongly condemning Nixon's successive air strikes against the DRVN, and demanding an immediate and permanent stop to such warlike actions.

The International Union of Students has cabled the Viet Nam Students' Union a message denouncing the US imperialists for brazenly infringing the DRVN sovereignty and security, and pledging solidarity with, and full support for, the heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people and students against US aggression and for independence, peace and freedom.

The progressive press in the world, especially that of Asian and African countries, has also bared the White House and Pentagon's equivocations:

India Radio said on December 27: An independent and sovereign country will never let any foreign country violate its airspace. Therefore the allegation on the so-called "tacit commitment" with the DRVN advanced by the US has no legal basis. The Indian paper *The Patriot* criticized on December 28 the absurd US plea that those massive bombings were designed to ensure safety for the GIs still remaining in South Viet Nam.

Also on December 28, the Iraqi *The Republic* pointed out that the US air attacks of North Viet Nam were an important part of its escalated aggression in Indochina. The US has been seeking every means to prop up the deteriorating morale of its client administrations following the recent setbacks of their troops in South Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia.

The Tanzanian paper *The Nationalist* wrote on the same day that due to increasing pressure at home and universal high feeling against the US imperialists' aggressive war, US Presidents have had to speak much of peace everywhere. But their confusion should not be taken for the US imperialists' nature. The present US war intensification in Indochina is a proof that the US imperialists cannot change their spots.

The Lebanese *An Nida* (Voice) remarked on December 29 that the bombing of the DRVN has bared US true colours in Southeast Asia and that: "The US has not given up its dream of a military victory in Viet Nam. The recent US air raids in North Viet Nam have been staged following the failure of the US 'Vietnamization'."

Together with the wave of indignation in the world there have been meetings, demonstrations, statements or strong criticisms from American progressives, the most dramatic actions being the Viet Nam veterans'.

Braving police repression and terror, Viet Nam veterans repeatedly demonstrated in front of the White House and in many cities, occupied the Lincoln Monument and the seat of the Saigon Consulate General in San Francisco...

The National Peace Action Coalition held a press conference against the US air war escalation and called for a huge protest parade on January 1, 1972.

US Senators E. Muskie, McGovern, ex-Vice-President H. Humphrey came out strongly against Nixon's military adventure. E. Muskie held that the bombing raids were wrong as far as the US is concerned and did harm to US national interests, and exposed the bankruptcy of "Vietnamization." The bombing cannot help any serious negotiations in Paris or anywhere to seek release of American prisoners and measures for the settlement of the political problem. McGovern called for support of his statement demanding that Nixon stop such desperate efforts to save a doomed policy and early fix a deadline for the total withdrawal of US forces and bring all the American prisoners home.

The New York Times commented on December 29 that US continued air strikes against North Viet Nam will only prolong the Indochina war. The 3 days of large-scale air attack on North Viet Nam have shattered the myth that Nixon is effectively winding up the war. The same bombing raids have also given the lie to Rogers and Laird's affirmation that the President's "Vietnamization" program is successful.

The war expansion has undermined the Paris peace conference, where lies the sole hope for the US to withdraw honorably from a war in which at present the major part of the American people think that the US should never have been involved.

The Third World in Effervescence

o Thailand: In twenty days (November 16 – December 7) the people's liberation forces of Xieng Rai and Kalasin fought scores of engagements, wiping out 93 enemy policemen and soldiers, destroying one military vehicle and one power station, burning four bridges, and seizing a big haul of weapons, munitions and military equipment.

o Mozambique: Over the past seven years the people's armed forces have sprung hundreds of attacks against the Portuguese colonialists' barracks, knocking out thousands of adverse men, wrecking about 1,000 military vehicles, and liberating one-fifth of the territory (with over 200,000 square kilometres and one million people).

In the free areas, the people's power has opened hospitals, schools, cooperatives, stepped up production and raised the population's living standard.

o Angola: From late August to early November 1971, the people's liberation forces launched 21 assaults on the Portuguese colonialists's posts in Army Corps III and V, eliminating 91 men, wounding many others, blasting two trucks and collecting a big amount of weapons and military equipment.

On September 13, in particular, the guerillas killed 45 enemy troops during an ambush along the Luelu river, and put out of action 16 others, wounded many others in an attack against a nearby post.

o Namibia: More than 10,000 workers including 6,000 railway workers went on strike on December 18, 1971 for a wage increase and against the ruthless exploitation of the South African white colonialists and racists. It was the biggest ever workers' strike in Namibia.

o Guinea (Bissau): In May and October 1971, the patriotic armed forces mounted 76 raids on enemy barracks, exacted a toll of 192 Portuguese colonialist troops, sank three boats, destroyed 31 military vehicles and captured 69 weapons.

o Chile: On the afternoon of December 20, 1971, over 200,000 Santiagoans held a meeting at Bunnes Square to voice their determination to stay the hands of the pro-US ultra-reactionaries who were trying to sabotage the revolutionary efforts of the People's Government led by President S. Allende for more than a year.

Prior to that, they had marched through the main streets of Santiago shouting "Long live the People's Government", "Down with the fascists", "Victory to the united people"...

Speaking at the meeting, President S. Allende said: "Nothing and nobody can defeat us, not even with lies, slanders, pressure, foreign dollars or arrogance of fascists, for our people are aware of their responsibilities. Those who engage in subversive manœuvres will be dealt with due force by the Chilean people."

o Ecuador: On December 9, the Ecuadorian navy seized an American fishing boat illegally operating in Ecuador's territorial waters, in spite of the threat of the US House of Representatives to suspend "aid." It brought to 51 the number of US fishing boats seized by Ecuador in 1971.

The appeal of the Ecuador Education Minister at the Congress of Education Ministers of Latin America and the Caribbean Sea for unity among the Latin American countries to preserve their interests received a warm response. The delegates of Peru, Chile, Cuba, Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela declared for Ecuador's position and against US predatory acts.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION